



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.
SECRETARY

For immediate release:
Dec. 6, 2007

Contact: Jean Kelly
Telephone: 225-219-3966

DEQ Clean Waters Program kickoff meeting held

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality hosted the kickoff meeting for the Louisiana Clean Waters Program Wednesday. The program is designed to protect, improve and restore water bodies throughout the state. One goal is to improve 80 currently impaired water bodies to allow fishing again and to restore 28 impaired water bodies to allow swimming by the year 2012.

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco directed DEQ to create a plan for addressing impaired water bodies and reducing their number by 25 percent by 2012. Participation by federal, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, business, industry and the general public is important in reaching this goal. The program will use both regulatory and voluntary methods to achieve improvement.

Chris Piehler, director of the Clean Waters Program, and DEQ Secretary Mike McDaniel outlined the preliminary program to a group of interested parties today at DEQ headquarters in Baton Rouge and asked for input in both an on-scene discussion and through follow-up discussions with individual agencies to secure their participation in the plan.

“The Clean Waters Program is a vital component of protecting the unimpaired waters of the state, and in improving and restoring the impaired water bodies,” McDaniel said. “There are many programs currently within DEQ and many more that related to the department that are centered on improving water quality. By joining together, we can all aim for the same goal and work together to improve and protect the waters of the state.”

For more information on the Clean Waters Program, call Chris Piehler at 225-219-3609.

-30-

DEQ COMMUNICATIONS
WWW.DEQ.LOUISIANA.GOV